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Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
Vienna, 10-17 April 2000

Report of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders held in San José from 22 to 24 February 1999

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I. Introduction

1. On the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly adopted resolution 53/110 of 9 December 1998, in which it decided to hold the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in Vienna from 10 to 17 April 2000. The Assembly also decided that the theme of the Tenth Congress should be "Crime and justice: meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century". It approved a provisional agenda for the Tenth Congress that included the following four items:

(a) Promoting the rule of law and strengthening the criminal justice system;

(b) International cooperation in combating transnational crime: new challenges in the twenty-first century;

(c) Effective crime prevention: keeping pace with new developments;

(d) Offenders and victims: accountability and fairness in the justice process.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly endorsed the programme of work for the Tenth Congress, including the holding of four practice-oriented technical workshops on the following subjects: combating corruption; crimes related to the computer network; community involvement in crime prevention; and women in the criminal justice system.

3. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Commission at its eighth session to prepare a draft declaration for submission to the Tenth Congress, taking into account the results of the regional preparatory meetings for the Tenth Congress, and urged the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive items of the agenda and workshop topics of the Tenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft declaration to be considered by the Commission. The Assembly requested the Tenth Congress to elaborate a single declaration containing its recommendations on the various substantive items of its agenda.

4. Accordingly, the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Tenth Congress examined the substantive agenda items and workshop topics for the Tenth Congress and formulated recommendations to be considered as elements for the draft declaration. The Meeting carried out its work on the basis of a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings (A/CONF.187/PM.1), which served as an annotated agenda, and a discussion guide on the workshops, ancillary meetings, symposia and exhibits to be held at the Tenth Congress (A/CONF.187/PM.1/Add.1).

II. Recommendations

5. The Meeting agreed that the Commission, in preparing the draft declaration for submission to the Tenth Congress, should consider the action-oriented recommendations set out below, which reflect the Latin American and Caribbean point of view. The Meeting emphasized that the recommendations would require concerted action at all levels in order to facilitate the active worldwide promotion of criminal justice policies and processes aimed at social justice, respect for human dignity, freedom, equality and security. The recommendations would require the involvement of the following partners and actors, as well as the recognition of their respective roles and contributions: Governments; national, regional, interregional and international institutions; intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations; and various segments of civil society, including the mass media and the private sector.

6. Member States should undertake to promote compliance with the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice and make every effort to incorporate them into national law. To that end, they should review legislation and administrative procedures and provide the necessary education and training to all persons concerned with crime prevention and criminal justice.

7. Member States should undertake to assign priority to negotiations and discussions on the draft convention against transnational organized crime, as well as on the international instruments relating to illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials, illicit trafficking in and transport of migrants, especially by sea, and trafficking in women and children, with a view to ensuring their early signing,

ratification and entry into force, if possible before the year 2002.

8. Member States should undertake to support the establishment, under the convention against transnational organized crime, of the United Nations technical assistance fund for the benefit of the less developed countries, with the aim of strengthening and modernizing the administration of criminal justice, through the use of new technologies and training and research programmes. The resources mobilized under that fund should be used for the provision of technical assistance to be provided by the institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network.

9. Member States should undertake to request the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to prepare, before the year 2002, universal instruments against corruption, money-laundering and computer crime within the framework of the convention against transnational organized crime and to recommend that, in the case of the instrument against corruption, the Inter-American Convention against Corruption be used as a model and that the General Assembly resolutions on the subject and other relevant instruments be taken into account.

10. Member States should undertake to request the Secretariat to conduct a study on fraud committed by means of electronic transactions and other innovative technologies, with a view to identifying action to deal with those crimes.

11. Member States should undertake to develop support programmes for victims of crime and to promote campaigns to raise awareness of victims' rights, as well as programmes for the protection of witnesses, their families and persons involved in criminal justice systems.

12. Member States should undertake to recommend that, as part of crime prevention strategies, measures be undertaken urgently to combat xenophobia, racism and violations of the rights of migrants, including the development of education programmes and media campaigns to foster tolerance and multiculturalism.

13. Member States should undertake to foster practical action to ensure that children and adolescents are not excluded from the education system, as an effective means of promoting social development and preventing juvenile delinquency.

14. Member States should undertake to include the gender perspective in all crime prevention and criminal justice programmes, with emphasis on the problem of violence against women and the need for training of criminal justice personnel.

15. Member States should undertake to identify and implement models for non-judicial and judicial approaches to conflict resolution, such as mediation, conciliation, arbitration and other means of restorative justice, through the promotion of regional consultations for the exchange of experiences acquired in this respect and the development of community education programmes relating to these models of justice.

16. Member States should undertake to accord priority to the problem of the excessive use of detention pending trial and as a punishment, which gives rise to serious prison overcrowding, together with constant violations of human rights, and hampers or prevents the positive reintegration into society of persons who are victims of such situations.

17. Member States should undertake to establish and/or strengthen systems for the regulatory control of firearm circulation and identify competent national authorities and their specific roles. Crime prevention programmes for the reduction and control of the possession of firearms by civilians should be developed, implemented and evaluated.

18. With a view to combating violence related to firearms, bilateral, subregional, regional and global agreements and measures should be promoted for the purpose of training personnel involved in the detection, investigation and prosecution of illicit trafficking in firearms, including the exchange and development of policies and technologies for such purposes.

19. Member States should undertake to promote the early ratification of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Production of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials and its use as a model for the elaboration of a universal instrument having broader scope.

20. Member States should undertake to promote regional and global studies on trends in criminality, including hidden crime, and periodically evaluate the operation and efficiency of crime prevention and criminal justice institutions.

21. Member States should undertake to strengthen mechanisms to facilitate and encourage the widest measure of judicial assistance in the investigation and prosecution of crimes, using the relevant United Nations conventions

as models, and to promote the transfer of prisoners to serve sentence in their country of origin.

22. Member States should undertake to develop programmes that provide for the active involvement of the community in the design and implementation of crime prevention and control policies, with the aim of strengthening values inherent in a culture of lawfulness and public-spiritedness.

23. Member States should undertake to foster the cooperation and participation of the mass media in curbing the violence characteristic of contemporary society, by helping to ensure that violent messages do not pervade every home and that children are not exposed to such messages on a daily basis.

24. Member States should undertake to promote all necessary measures to enable the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat, other United Nations entities and the regional institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders to develop, in line with States' requirements, technical assistance and cooperation programmes for the full implementation of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and, in particular, of the undertakings set out above.

III. Attendance and organization of work

A. Date and venue of the Meeting

25. The Meeting was held from 22 to 24 February 1999 in San José.

B. Attendance

26. The Meeting was attended by representatives and experts from States members and associate members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and observers from States Members of the United Nations, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. A list of participants is contained in annex I to the present report.

C. Opening of the Meeting

27. The Meeting was opened by the Minister of Justice of Costa Rica, Mónica Nagel Berger, who delivered a statement on behalf of the President of Costa Rica. The Director of the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders addressed the Meeting. The Officer-in-Charge of the Centre for International Crime Prevention also addressed the Meeting.

D. Election of officers

28. The Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairperson:	Mónica Nagel Berger (Costa Rica)
Vice-Chairperson:	Marco Rolle (Bahamas)
Vice-Chairperson:	José Victor Alberto Armas Blengeri (Peru)
Rapporteur:	Julio Enrique Angel Aparicio (Argentina)

E. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

29. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/110, the Meeting adopted the following agenda and organization of work:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Consideration of the four substantive items of the provisional agenda for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders:

   (a) Promoting the rule of law and strengthening the criminal justice system;

   (b) International cooperation in combating transnational crime: new challenges in the twenty-first century;

   (c) Effective crime prevention: keeping pace with new developments;

(d) Offenders and victims: accountability and fairness in the justice process.

4. Consideration of the four workshops to be held at the Tenth Congress:

(a) Workshop on combating corruption;

(b) Workshop on crimes related to the computer network;

(c) Workshop on community involvement in crime prevention;

(d) Workshop on women in the criminal justice system.

5. Consideration of recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft declaration to be submitted by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eighth session to the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

6. Adoption of the recommendations.

7. Consideration and adoption of the report of the Meeting.

8. Closure of the Meeting.

IV. Consideration of the four substantive items of the provisional agenda for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

30. Participants acknowledged the continuing importance of the quinquennial United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders. They recalled the constructive role played by previous congresses in policy development and the elaboration of universally accepted standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. It was noted that the congresses offered, for example, an invaluable opportunity to identify effective measures for implementing the international instruments being developed under the auspices of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. In that context, a review of the Programme was also requested.

Topic I. Promoting the rule of law and strengthening the criminal justice system

31. The Meeting noted that a reliable, well-functioning criminal justice system was of the utmost importance in ensuring the rule of law and achieving concomitant social progress and economic development. Central to that issue was public confidence in the functioning of criminal justice systems. Efforts towards that goal should address closer community involvement in criminal justice proceedings and provide the general public with information on the operation of criminal justice systems and the importance of criminal law as a means of ensuring social stability. It was also considered important to ensure equitable access to justice, improved transparency and expediency of the criminal justice system and its fairness in sanctioning offenders. Attention must be given to implementing technical cooperation programmes that promoted those aspects. Participants called upon the United Nations to develop programmes that would strengthen public confidence in the rule of law. In particular, it was suggested that the United Nations develop educational tools, such as handbooks and manuals, to promote ethical standards of conduct in that area and provide communities with information on methods of conflict resolution.

32. It was stressed that Governments should make even greater efforts to ensure that criminal justice systems were equipped with the latest material and technologically advanced means to carry out their work.

33. Participants emphasized that the phenomenon of crime should be treated from a socio-economic perspective. Accordingly, legislation must be adapted to respond to evolving social dynamics. The impact of the globalization of economies on crime was discussed. It was stated that there should be greater emphasis on criminal policy being well planned, consistent and comprehensive in order to deal with crime and promote a just and humane society.

34. Participants reiterated the continuing need for the exchange of experiences and information concerning the various aspects of promoting criminal justice systems and the rule of law. It was important to recognize appropriate roles of the various actors involved, who ranged from law enforcement and criminal justice personnel to victims, offenders and members of the community.

35. Successful criminal justice management depended on proper human resource development and improved skills of criminal justice personnel, areas in which technical assistance programmes should play a larger role. Participants emphasized that an essential requirement for promoting the rule of law was the adequate provision of regular training programmes for all criminal justice personnel. That should include, in particular, training in codes of ethics of judicial personnel and promotion of the implementation of such instruments as the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers,[1] the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary[2] and the Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors.[3]

36. Participants agreed that the establishment of mechanisms for evaluating the effectiveness of judicial systems in terms of their results, including but not restricted to the area of punishment, was essential to the design and formulation of criminal policy. It would also be useful to extend tools for criminological analysis to include factors other than the outcome of legal proceedings, such as research into hidden crime.

37. Participants stressed that the availability and provision of technical assistance remained a top priority as a means of increasing the possibility of improving the operation of criminal justice systems, particularly in the face of rapidly evolving new forms of crime. The Meeting emphasized the need to fully implement the United Nations criminal justice standards and norms in that process. However, technical assistance remained difficult to obtain and time-consuming. Moreover, severe financial restraints forced upon Governments by economic recession and other factors seriously reduced effective technical assistance initiatives. It was therefore imperative to improve the levels and delivery of technical assistance and greater efforts were necessary to develop mechanisms for its more effective provision. Such mechanisms should ensure that adequate resources were made available and should include a guarantee for their efficient utilization. Training activities, information exchange and the transfer of technology should be integral elements of technical assistance. Also essential in that regard were close cooperation and coordination of efforts between Governments and non-governmental organizations.

38. Participants noted the invaluable role that institutions such as the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders could play in providing and promoting technical assistance and urged that they should be fully supported in their efforts and the English-speaking countries in the Caribbean should be included in that entire process. It was emphasized that international agencies engaged in the provision of technical and financial assistance should take fully into account the fundamental role of criminal justice systems in the achievement of social development and economic growth.

39. Participants expressed concern at the rise in violent crime, including violence committed using firearms and explosives. Increasing violent crime and the fear generated by it had had a serious impact on the security of citizens. The Meeting considered that the issue constituted a major problem for global security and the rule of law.

40. Participants asserted the need to constantly promote the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in all areas of the criminal justice system and to foster an appropriate and equitable response on the part of all criminal justice personnel.

41. Participants expressed the view that domestic laws should, where applicable, incorporate elements from community-based judicial systems and from the traditions and customs of indigenous peoples recognized by Convention (No. 169) concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries, adopted on 27 June 1989 by the General Conference of the International Labour Organization.

Topic II. International cooperation in combating transnational crime: new challenges in the twenty-first century

42. The Meeting was apprised of the progress made in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime at its first session, held in Vienna from 19 to 29 January 1999.

43. Several participants emphasized that the planned convention was essential to efforts to combat transnational organized crime. Technical assistance was also a crucial aspect in those efforts, for which a solid foundation could be provided by additional international instruments against (a) trafficking in women and children, (b) the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition and (c) illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea. The Meeting was of the view that, when considering the scope of the convention, the Ad Hoc Committee should also include the issues of illicit trafficking in human organs and

illicit drug trafficking. The Meeting stressed the need to ensure that there would be adequate financial resources for implementing the technical assistance provisions of the convention that was being developed. The Meeting expressed concern that the elaboration of a draft international convention required fuller participation by Member States. As that process would require an extremely wide range of expertise on the part of those participating in the sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee, greater cooperation was all the more necessary. A representative of the Secretariat informed the Meeting of the resource constraints placed upon the Organization, which prevented it from financing from its existing budget the participation of developing countries.

44. While a major feature of organized crime that needed to be addressed on a priority basis was its ability to accumulate huge amounts of money through illegal activity, it was important to take into account other features of the phenomenon in order for measures aimed at its prevention to be effective. The Meeting expressed the hope that the discussions on the definition and scope of transnational organized crime in the Ad Hoc Committee would be successfully concluded. Participants noted that special attention needed to be paid to the fact that transnational criminal groups often dodged legal controls by exploiting the limitations of national law. Governments could counteract that problem by ensuring the swift exchange between countries of information on criminal syndicates and their activities and by promoting mutual legal assistance, including in particular the expansion of the network of extradition treaties to facilitate efficient and expeditious operations.

45. Participants expressed the view that the Tenth Congress should recommend effective means of implementing the provisions of the convention against transnational organized crime that was currently being elaborated. It was important for States to take the requisite steps to sign the convention and ensure its early ratification.

46. Several participants suggested that, in addition to international instruments, regional cooperation mechanisms were required to fight transnational organized crime. It was further suggested that operational procedures needed to be established for law enforcement personnel engaged in combating transnational organized crime. Participants referred to various forms of transnational crime and underlined particularly pressing needs for international cooperation, including the need for improved cooperation in the recovery of stolen motor vehicles. Reference was made to the Model Bilateral Treaty for the Return of Stolen or Embezzled Motor Vehicles (Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/29, annex II, of 21 July 1997), and a forthcoming technical handbook providing guidance on the subject.

47. It was noted that small countries in the region, particularly in the Caribbean, were especially vulnerable to transnational organized crime and faced unique problems in their efforts to deal with it. They often lacked the personnel and financial resources, as well as the operational information, to deal with the problems posed by organized criminal syndicates. It was therefore essential to recognize their special needs and to provide them with adequate assistance. Developing effective national strategies was also important in that regard.

48. Participants noted that restricting the use of evidence in legal proceedings other than those for which it had been requested hampered the timely and effective provision of evidence and that, in some cases, the prior authorization process could not be repeated within the procedural time limits. For that reason, the provision of legal assistance involving the exchange of evidence should be subject to a restriction whereby only its use for non-judicial purposes was prohibited; thus, it should be possible to use evidence requested in connection with one lawsuit to be used in another without prior authorization from the State furnishing the evidence, provided that notification was given to that State regarding the further judicial use of such evidence.

49. Participants advocated mechanisms designed to expedite the exchange of evidence, either between central authorities or between liaison officers, in accordance with the provisions of domestic legislation. For that purpose, it would be desirable to appoint judicial officials whose sole responsibility would be to execute requests for legal assistance from other States.

50. The Meeting called for the elaboration of a global instrument against corruption that would be based on the Inter-American Convention against Corruption. It was suggested that the Tenth Congress consider that issue as a priority concern and recommend the elaboration of such an instrument either as a convention or as a protocol to the draft convention against transnational organized crime.

Topic III. Effective crime prevention: keeping pace with new developments

51. Participants were of the view that measures should be put in place to enable criminal justice authorities to keep abreast of new technological advances in the field, thereby empowering criminal justice systems to provide a timely, appropriate and contemporary response to both traditional and newly emerging crimes. It was suggested that an international protocol be developed concerning the use of new video and other technologies in connection with criminal justice and promoting more efficient global cooperation in that area.

52. The Meeting reiterated the importance of adequate measures for socio-economic and cultural development as a central element of effective crime prevention. Community involvement should be the rule and not the exception. The prevention of violence and crime should be part and parcel of national policies and should be promoted as a cultural value. It should extend from the traditional models of the family, through the educational system and the media to other community agencies.

53. Participants, noting that prison systems had not yet achieved the desired levels of efficiency, urged that new methodologies be put forward at the Tenth Congress for implementation in prison systems in the twenty-first century. At the same time, they were of the view that it was advisable that consideration be given to (a) alternatives to custodial sanctions and (b) improving the organization of the justice system by taking into account the needs of juveniles and young adults.

54. Participants noted that migration often had repercussions on public order and affected the perception of security. Various issues relating to migration required further study and analysis, especially issues concerning efforts to combat xenophobia. Special attention should be given to the issue of the exploitation of migrants by transnational organized criminal syndicates, including in particular prostitution and human rights abuses. Participants emphasized that it was necessary to harmonize the criminal justice, crime prevention and regulatory policies of the countries concerned in order to ensure an effective and consistent response to various forms of crime connected with migration. The Meeting was informed of various national crime prevention initiatives, including one concerning the establishment of crime prevention councils mandated to develop national policies on crime prevention. It was noted that several crime prevention initiatives should extend beyond the national borders of the countries concerned and should be further advanced pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/33 of 21 July 1997.

55. Participants agreed that States should pay increased attention to the problem of domestic violence and related crimes. Participants emphasized that no efficient criminal justice system could operate without the cooperation of a well-trained police force. Domestic violence might have to be criminalized by national law.

56. The Meeting emphasized the importance of governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations having partnerships with each other and coordinating their efforts.

Topic IV. Offenders and victims: accountability and fairness in the justice process

57. It was noted that the conditions in which custodial sentences and security measures were carried out were a matter of considerable concern in many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Prison overcrowding, delays in the operation of the criminal justice system and situations involving violations of detainees' human rights warranted special consideration because of their prevalence. The Meeting recommended that regional evaluations be made of the causes of prison overcrowding, a measure that would facilitate the full implementation of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners[4] and the parallel implementation of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (The Tokyo Rules) (General Assembly resolution 45/110, annex, of 14 December 1990). The Meeting also recommended that States in the region should further develop the network of schools for prison officials, which would provide training in the implementation of the various United Nations standards in criminal justice. Participants noted that, although United Nations instruments set out internationally recognized standards whose effective implementation was a priority, those standards were not mandatory. It was suggested that more binding instruments be developed to ensure greater compliance with the precepts of United Nations criminal policy.

58. Greater attention should be paid to the promotion of alternatives to imprisonment, such as restorative justice, and the use of alternative techniques, such as mediation and reconciliation. The development of models for restorative justice was suggested.

59. The Meeting noted that the Model Agreement on the Transfer of Foreign Prisoners[5] and the Model Treaty on the Transfer of Supervision of Offenders Conditionally Sentenced or Conditionally Released (General Assembly resolution 45/119, annex, of 14 December 1990) should be effectively implemented by all States as a means of improving the resettlement of prisoners and of avoiding discrimination in the prison environment. Participants emphasized the valuable role that could be played in that regard by institutes such as the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and urged that they be fully supported in those efforts. It was considered necessary to ensure that alternatives to imprisonment did not discriminate against the financially disadvantaged and that alternative sanctions were not applied to extremely serious crimes. Participants also stressed the importance of conflict resolution outside the criminal justice system and the need to ensure that neither the victim nor the offender was alienated from the community. It was suggested that appropriate information strategies be developed for promoting alternative methods, possibly in the context of public legal education. It was necessary to provide adequate professional training for the personnel concerned.

60. Participants accorded high priority to the protection of victims of crime. Measures should be adopted to protect the identity of victims and their families throughout the various stages of criminal proceedings and to provide victims with psychological support, as recommended in the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power (General Assembly resolution 40/34, annex, of 29 November 1985). It was suggested that victimization surveys be carried out in order to gain a more thorough understanding of the various aspects of crime reporting and to develop adequate policy responses to crime. There was a call for closer cooperation in that area among the institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, particularly with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, which had been carrying out periodic international surveys on victimization in developing countries.

61. Some participants were of the view that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should continue working on the draft minimum rules for the criminal justice process, as that instrument could contribute to improved protection of the human rights of both the victim and the accused.

V. Consideration of the workshops to be held at the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

A. Workshop on combating corruption

62. Participants emphasized the importance of the workshop on combating corruption and the relevance of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption to the workshop. The workshop would provide an opportunity to identify what needed to be done in order to begin work on a global legal framework against corruption, which was considered essential to developing countries and developed countries alike. Because the socio-cultural and legal context of "corruption" was not always clearly delineated, it was important to stress that tackling corruption went beyond the legal framework. The Meeting therefore recommended that the workshop pay due attention to practical tools for combating corruption. Among those tools, all levels of education should be actively used to warn against the dangers of corruption. Examples of such tools that had proved their usefulness should be demonstrated at the workshop and promoted in other ways as well.

63. The workshop should also demonstrate how Member States could act in concert with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to curb corruption, a goal whose achievement might pose difficulties if a Government had to rely solely on the recommendations of those organizations without becoming involved itself in a practical way. Furthermore, the workshop should illustrate and discuss the usefulness of particular measures against corruption, such as the disclosure of personal assets by public officials and mechanisms for the rapid detection of irregularities in bank accounts that might indicate the accumulation of wealth by illegal means.

64. Finally, the workshop should illustrate the negative impact of corruption on economies, taking into account the precarious situation of small countries, where the mere allegation of corrupt practice could be damaging to the entire national economy. The provision of technical assistance to such countries could be instrumental in strengthening their legal and regulatory systems, thus making them less vulnerable to attempts at corruption. The workshop could be a forum for discussing such initiatives.

B. Workshop on crimes related to the computer network

65. Participants noted that the existing and potential threat of crimes related to the computer network made the holding of a workshop on that subject an extremely timely event. As Member States and the international criminal justice community were increasingly being confronted by rapid and uncontrollable growth of new information technologies, the need had arisen to better organize the exchange of information and experiences helpful in combating the misuse of the Internet.

66. The various forms of electronic theft and harmful penetration of databases and home pages should be counteracted by more concerted international criminal justice cooperation. Noting the absence of any global instrument against crimes related to the computer network, participants emphasized that the workshop should provide examples of successful law enforcement and other legal cooperation, thus showing that there were some—albeit limited—possibilities of effectively controlling crimes involving the computer network. Finally, the Tenth Congress should consider recommending the adoption of a global protocol on the comprehensive control and prevention of computer crime within the framework of the convention against transnational organized crime that was being elaborated.

C. Workshop on community involvement in crime prevention

67. A significant number of participants stressed the fundamental importance of community involvement in crime prevention for the purpose of maintaining and strengthening the link between the State and the inhabitants of a country, particularly with regard to security within the framework of a unified social policy. The agenda of the workshop on community involvement in crime prevention should emphasize the sharing of responsibilities by the State and the community in various aspects of the prevention of crime and violence by, for example, encouraging the active involvement of the community in defining the problems and proposing solutions at the local and national levels.

68. Participants were of the view that the workshop should demonstrate how to achieve effective community involvement in crime prevention and should, at the same time, show that community involvement was not to be seen as alien to a democratic system but rather that it represented the effective exercise of the citizens' right and duty to actively support a public cause. In addition, the workshop should outline the scope of community involvement, specifying, for example, measures for improving or strengthening the social structure, including in a psychological sense, for promoting public-spiritedness and positive social behaviour in order to reduce violence and conflicts.

69. Finally, participants expressed the view that the workshop should emphasize the following as being helpful in creating and implementing successful community crime prevention programmes: education; practical activities for strengthening social networks; the development of mechanisms for planning, evaluating and sustaining crime prevention programmes; and the exchange of information and experiences concerning crime prevention.

70. One participant informed the Meeting of a plan to discuss during the workshop a model project on urban crime prevention. The project would focus on urban planners and dwellers with a view to increasing a sense of public security in residential areas. The project would be technical in nature. A workshop organized after the Tenth Congress could include the project on its agenda. A representative of the Secretariat informed the Meeting that the proposal concerning the model project would be submitted to the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime for consideration and action. Another participant expressed concern over the role of the mass media and its impact on perceived public security and fear of crime.

D. Workshop on women in the criminal justice system

71. Participants expressed support for the concept of the workshop on women in the criminal justice system, a topic

that included the question of gender equality and that could be instrumental in promoting equal career prospects for female professionals in the criminal justice system. The workshop could demonstrate how arrangements had been made in certain criminal justice administrations to ensure gender equality, particularly with regard to career advancement for male and female professionals. In examining the position of women as victims of crime, the workshop should provide an incisive overview of the inadequacies still existing in the treatment of female detainees and prisoners. Participants were of the view that that aspect of criminal justice administration was the most neglected in terms of the special concerns and vulnerability of women in such situations. The workshop should demonstrate progressive solutions that had already been adopted in some systems and had enabled those systems to overcome their deficiencies. Participants were also of the view that the question of violence against women, including domestic violence, should be examined closely as an item on the agenda for the workshop. Reference was made to the exemplary involvement of the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy in that work, which could be demonstrated at the workshop.

Notes

[1] *Eighth United Nations Congress on the Preventio and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, 27 Augu September 1990: report prepared by the Secretar* Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2), chap. I annex.

[2] *Seventh United Nations Congress on the Preventi and the Treatment of Offenders, Milan, 26 August September 1985: report prepared by the Secretar* Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IV.1), chap. I annex.

[3] *Eighth United Nations Congress ...*, chap. I, sect. C

[4] *First United Nations Congress on the Prevention and the Treatment of Offenders, Geneva, 22 Augus 3 September 1955: report purposed by the Secreta* Nations publication, Sales No. 1956.IV.4), annex I

[5] *Seventh United Nations Congress ...*, chap. I, sect. annex II.

Annex I

List of participants

Regional members and associate members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Argentina	Julio Enrique Angel Aparicio, Secretario de Política Criminal, Penitenciario y de Readaptación Social, Ministerio de Justicia
	Mariano Ciafardini, Director Nacional de Política Criminal, Secretaría de Política Criminal Penitenciaria y de Readaptación Social, Ministerio de Justicia
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	Mario Enrique Rossi, Asesor Secretario de Seguridad Interior, Ministerio del Interior
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	Sergio Medinaceli Soza, Viceministro de Prevención y Rehabilitación Social, Ministerio de Gobierno
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Canada	James Hayes, Coordinator, International Firearms Issues, Canadian Firearms Centre, Department of Justice
Chile	Eduardo Schott Stolzenbach, Primer Secretario, Embajada de Chile en Costa Rica
Colombia	Jorge Aníbal Gómez, Presidente Sala de Casación Penal, Corte Suprema de Justicia
	María Paulina Riveros, Asesora del Despacho del Ministro, Ministerio del Interior
	Manuel Fernando Moya Vazgas, Oficina de Asuntos Internacionales, Fiscalía General de la Nación
	Enrique Celis, Segundo Secretario, Dirección de Asuntos Especiales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
	Carlos Alberto Bernal Román, Encargado de Negocios a.i., Embajada de Colombia en Costa Rica
	Juan Antonio Villamizar Trujillo, Primer Secretario, Embajada de Colombia en Costa Rica

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	Juan Rafael Lizano, Ministro de Seguridad Pública
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	Jorge Delgado, Director de Prevención del Delito, Ministerio de Justicia y Gracia
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	Jorge Braulio Castro, Asesor del Viceministro, Ministerio de Seguridad Pública
	Walter Navarro, Director de la Fueza Pública, Ministerio de Seguridad
	Sara Castillo Vargas, Directora Ejecutiva, Comisión Nacional para el Mejoramiento de la Administración de la Justicia
	Eugenio Polanco Hernandez
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	Daniel González Saborío
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	Felipe Carlos Moncayo, Coronel, Oficial de la Policía Nacional
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	Carlos Ernesto Sánchez Escobar, Juez del Tribunal Tercero de Sentencia de San Salvador
	Orlando Antonio Quijano Santamaría, Director General de Política Criminal, Ministerio de Justicia
	Ana Cecilia Martínez, Colaboradora Técnica, Ministerio de Justicia
	Milton José Colindres, Ministro Consejero, Embajada de El Salvador en Costa Rica

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	Armando López Barrios, Magistrado, Corte Suprema de Justicia
	Enio Rudelsy Rivera Cardona, Director General Adjunto, Policía Civil, Ministerio de Gobernación
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Jamaica	Carl McKay Williams, Senior Superintendent of Police, Crime Manager, Cooperate Strategy Coordination Unit, Jamaica Constabulary Force
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	Walter Beller, Coordinador General de Asesores del Procurador General
	Omar Fayad Meneses, Coordinador de Asesores, Subsecretaría de Seguridad Pública
	José Octavio Tripp, Encargado de Asuntos Económicos y Jurídicos, Embajada de México en Costa Rica
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	Eduardo Pérez Rocha, Coronel, Jefe del Estado Mayor Personal de la Dirección General de la PNP, Ministerio del Interior

Saint Kitts and Nevis	Ken E. Ballantyne, Solicitor General
Spain	José Antonio Diez Muñiz, Comisaría General de Información, Secretario Técnico
	Jesus Fipoy Leo, Comisario del Cuerpo Nacional de Policía, Ministerio del Interior
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Uruguay	Antonio Ricardo Morell Bordoli, Embajador de la República Oriental del Uruguay en Costa Rica

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	José Alberto Gamboa Salazar, Abogado y Notario, Nunciatura Apostólica de Costa Rica
	Eladio Villalta Loaiza, Nunciatura Apostólica de Costa Rica

United Nations Secretariat

Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, United Nations Office at Vienna

United Nations bodies and affiliated institutes

United Nations Developmnt Programme, Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy, International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences, International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council, International Centre for the Prevention of Crime

Intergovernmental organizations

International Organization for Migration

Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Asia Crime Prevention Foundation, Centre for Justice and International Law, Penal Reform International

Other organizations

Inter-American Institute of Human Rights

Experts

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Hilda Marchiori, Subsecretaria de Gobierno Ministerio de Asuntos Institucionales y Desarrollo Social (Argentina)

Cristina Rojas Rodríguez (Costa Rica)

Annex II

List of documents

Basic documents

A/CONF.187/PM.1	Discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
A/CONF.187/PM.1/Add.1	Discussion guide on the workshops, ancillary meetings, symposia and exhibits to be held at the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
A/CONF.187/RPM/CRP.1	Workshop on women in the criminal justice system: draft plan for the preparation of the workshop, submitted by the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations
A/CONF.187/RPM/CRP.2	The Tenth Congress workshop on combating corruption, submitted by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
A/CONF.187/RPM/CRP.3	Report of the expert meeting on crimes related to the computer network, submitted by the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
A/CONF.187/RPM/CRP.4	Draft plan for the preparations for workshop on community involvement in crime prevention, submitted by the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime
A/CONF.187/RPM.4/L.1 and Add.1, Add.2/Rev.1 and Add.3 and 4	Draft report

Background documents

A/CONF.169/16/Rev.1	Report of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
E/1998/30 and Corr.1	Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its seventh session
E/CN.15/1998/2	Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

E/CN.15/1998/5	Report of the meeting of the inter-sessional open-ended intergovernmental group of experts on the elaboration of a preliminary draft of a possible comprehensive international convention against organized transnational crime, held at Warsaw from 2 to 6 February 1998
E/CN.15/1998/6/Add.1	Recommendations of the African Regional Ministerial Workshop on Organized Transnational Crime and Corruption, held in Dakar from 21 to 23 July 1997
E/CN.15/1998/6/Add.2	Report of the Asian Ministerial Workshop on Organized Transnational Crime and Corruption, held in Manila from 23 to 25 March 1998
E/CN.15/1997/2 and Corr.1 and Add.1	Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
E/CN.15/1996/15	Report of the Secretary-General on proposals for the preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders